



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHOENIX MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGALLY PURCHASING 68 FIREARMS

68 Firearms Illegally Purchased in Arizona; 28 Recovered in the Bay Area

PHOENIX — On August 6, 2007, Philip A. Fonsworth-McCorvey, 23, of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced here to 34 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge David G. Campbell. McCorvey's sentence will be followed by an additional 36 months of supervised release. McCorvey had pleaded guilty on March 12, 2007 to ten charges: one charge of Conspiracy and nine charges of False Statements in Connection with the Acquisition of Firearms.

McCorvey conspired to purchase firearms in Arizona for an individual from the San Francisco, California area named Derrick Lindsey, Jr.. Prior to each purchase, Lindsey would travel to Arizona to give McCorvey money and instructions on which guns to buy. After the purchase, McCorvey would give the guns to Lindsey and in return receive a sum of cash and/or a small quantity of marijuana. Lindsey would then return to northern California and illegally sell the firearms in the Bay Area. When purchasing the firearms in Arizona, McCorvey filled out an ATF form wherein he falsely represented that he was the true purchaser of the firearms, when in reality, the true purchaser of the firearms was Lindsey. Furthermore, in an attempt to conceal the purchase of these firearms, on or about August 1, 2005, Mr. McCorvey contacted the Phoenix Police Department, falsely indicated that he was a collector of handguns, and falsely indicated that his car and eighteen guns stored therein had been stolen.

From June 16, 2005 to October 29, 2005, McCorvey made twenty-two separate purchases for Lindsey, totaling 68 firearms. Judge Campbell enhanced McCorvey's sentence upon a finding that McCorvey knew or had reasonable cause to believe the firearms would be used in connection with other felony offenses. A total of thirty firearms have been recovered, 28 of them in the Bay Area. Nearly all the firearms were recovered during crimes or at crime scenes, ranging from Felon in Possession of a Firearm to Homicide. In fact, Lindsey was shot and killed on November 23, 2005, in San Francisco. In his possession was one of the firearms McCorvey had purchased for him.

McCorvey's prosecution is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide firearms crime enforcement program. The effectiveness of Project Safe Neighborhoods is based on the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive, led by the U.S. Attorneys' in their respective jurisdictions. McCorvey's case was a cooperative effort of U.S. Attorney and ATF offices in Arizona and the Northern District of California, and the San Francisco Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Michael Lee, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, and Tom Mazzucco, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Northern District of California.

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